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Beautiful America, has always devoted much attention to the subject of outdoor advertising. Its lecturers have depicted on screens the hideousness of billboard advertising; it has made it the subject of special bulletins and newspaper comment, and is constantly watching for opportunities to assist in local billboard contests. At present, through its general offices in Washington, the American Civic Association is directing particular attention to the possibility for accomplishing definite results in city and State legislation and is urging a further awakening of public sentiment against the desecration of city and county thoroughfares in the erection of poster walls. It cites as a notable instance of effective prohibitive regulations those in force in Washington. No new billboards are permitted there and as existing permits expire they are not renewed. Not a billboard is adjacent to the beautiful union passenger station. The American Civic Association believes that every city gateway should be equally free from billboards.

#### REVIVAL OF AN OLD ART

Under the direction of the Society of Arts and Crafts of Detroit a Masque was given in July, an adjunct of which was a series of "Morris Dances." These were produced with great care and accuracy and in the smallest detail were according to tradition. In England, today, the old picturesque customs are just finding revival and not before have these same revels been given in America. The costuming was unusual; for example, the maidens participating in the Maypole dance wore gowns of chintz of English design or old Colonial lincns, with kerchief and sunbonnet, no two alike. The "Pleasures" costumes followed Greek lines and were made of stuffs specially dyed for the purpose by members of the Society of Arts and Crafts. In color they ranged from sunset yellow and pale orange to deep fruit tones. The effort was to produce pictorial effects which, as color schemes, arrangements in line, and general composition, would be no less works of art

than painted pictures. And to visual interest was added the charm of rhythmic motion augmented by song. This is a new line of activity for an Arts and Crafts Society, but certainly a legitimate one. The performance was given in the open air, with natural scenery.

#### ART IN TENNESSEE

The city of Nashville recently appropriated \$1,000 for the purchase of paintings for a municipal gallery. This appropriation was made with the understanding that it would be annual and it is thought that the amount will be subsequently increased. The fund thus created was placed in the hands of the Nashville Art Association under the auspices of which several notable exhibitions have been held. The last of these exhibitions was a flower and picture show, held in the Parthenon, in May, which proved a great success. The Parthenon was one of the buildings erected at the time of the Nashville Centennial Celebration and it is purposed to use it hereafter as a permanent art gallery. The Art Association has, on its own initiative, established a medal for distinction in the fine arts. It has been awarded to Mrs. W. B. Newman, a portrait painter, and to Mrs. E. Ashford, a composer of sacred music. The scope of the Association's activities is very broad.

#### CITY IMPROVE- MENT IN SCRANTON

There is probably no place more discouraging from an esthetic standpoint than an industrial city which is rapidly growing, swiftly changing in contour as well as in population and chiefly devoted to money making. The difficulties are augmented, moreover, when traffic and labor extend hundreds of feet below the ground as is the case in Scranton. There are, however, few cities that have done more in the last two years toward civic betterment. The City Improvement Association of Scranton when organized in 1908 took as its motto "Do It Now," and has lived up to it. The first thing it did was to secure a plan for the development and general improvement of